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<b>To:</b>	Mr. John Hayes	<b>From:</b>	Nancy J. Rabenold
<b>Fax:</b>	703-746-7238	<b>Date:</b>	August 17, 2004
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Pages:</b>	3 (Including Cover Page)
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August 17, 2004

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Ms. Kimberely Terrell  
Manager of Publications  
Facsimile: (703) 305-4372

**Re: Request for Special Handling Under MPEP 1309 for Expedited  
Issuance of Allowed Patent Application**  
Serial Number 09/866,191  
Filed on May 25, 2001

Dear Ms. Terrell:

I greatly appreciated the kindness and professional attitude that Ms. Darlene Lyon demonstrated during my recent telephone conversation with her concerning the above-referenced patent application. During that call, Ms. Lyon advised me to contact you via written correspondence to communicate our respectful request for expedited issuance of the above-referenced patent application.

**Basis for MPEP 1309(A) Request**

We are requesting this case to receive special handling in accordance with the procedures set forth in MPEP 1309(A). The above-referenced patent application was filed on May 25, 2001, under a Petition to Make Special based on actual infringement. Thus, this patent application qualifies for special processing under MPEP 1309(A). We are requesting expedited processing of the application to issuance for the following reasons:

- (1) The allowed claims of the patent application are being infringed and each day of delay in issuance of the U.S. Patent results in a financial impact to our company.
- (2) We are presently competing with others for new business. Some of the parties we are competing against are infringing one or more of the allowed claims. Thus, any delay in the issuance of the patent directly hinders our ability to properly and legitimately leverage our intellectual property rights within the marketplace.
- (3) Although this application was filed under a Petition to Make Special, a very significant delay in the allowance of the application is apparent—over three (3) years from the effective filing date and over four (4) years from the priority date. We have incurred significant financial and competitive impact during this period of time.

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August 17, 2004

**Request to Examiner in Case**

We are providing a copy of this letter to the Primary Examiner and the Supervising Examiner in this case. In accordance with MPEP 1309, the Examiner should formally request the Image Assistance Center in the Office of Patent Publication to provide special treatment for this case due to qualification under MPEP 1309(A).

**Query/Printer Waiting Under 1309.02**

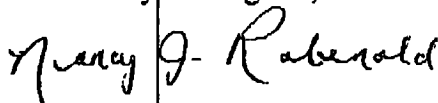
Under MPEP 1309.02, if the printer finds an error in the application, the error can be fixed in an expedited manner by directly contacting the applicant or the applicant's attorney and allowing them to file an amendment under 37 CFR 1.312 -- Amendments After Allowance. Therefore, we are providing you with ample contact information to help expedite this process if an error is found.

<b>Inventors:</b>	Nancy Rabenold Office -- (813) 627-0496 ext 11 Mobile -- (813) 503-5885 Home -- (813) 662-7080 email -- <a href="mailto:nancy@auctionsolutions.com">nancy@auctionsolutions.com</a>	<b>Jim Simmons</b> Office -- (813) 627-0496 ext 12 Mobile -- (813) 505-3971 Home -- (813) 655-7165 email -- <a href="mailto:jim@auctionsolutions.com">jim@auctionsolutions.com</a>
<b>Attorney:</b>	Gregory Smith 40,819 Office -- (770) 804-9070 Mobile -- (404) 643-3430 Home -- (770) 522-0200 email -- <a href="mailto:gsmith@lavagroup.net">gsmith@lavagroup.net</a>	

It is of paramount importance for us in having this allowed patent application published as an issued patent as soon as possible. We are more than willing to personally visit the USPTO to assist with any matters in the issuance of a U.S. Patent for this application.

If you have any questions regarding the terms of this engagement, please do not hesitate to contact me at any one of the aforementioned contact numbers and/or e-mail.

With the very best regards,



Nancy Rabenold  
President & CEO,  
Auction Management Solutions, Inc.

<b>cc:</b>	John W. Hayes -- Primary Examiner Art Unit 3621 Facsimile Number (703) 746-7238	Jim Trammell -- Supervisory Examiner Art Unit 3621 Facsimile Number (703) 746-5534
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